

5,000-Year-Old "Wheel Coin" Is Oldest On Display at Numismatic Convention Here

Templeton Reid \$10 Piece
Valued by Owner at \$7,000.

By CHARLES LUDWIG

Oldest Coin—Bronze age "wheel coins" about 5,000 years old.

Most Valuable Coin—Probably the Templeton Reid \$10 gold piece of 1830, now valued at \$7,000; with the \$20 moratorium gold piece of 1933 valued at \$1,500, a runner-up.

Highest denomination of currency, \$100,000.

Oddest Coins—Made of wood or ostrich egg-shell.

These are a few superlatives from the fine and historically interesting coin exhibition being held in the Hall of Mirrors at the Netherland Plaza in connection with the annual convention of the American Numismatic Association.

Coin collectors from all parts of

the country are in attendance. The Cincinnati Numismatic Association, with B. H. Terry, president, and Sol Kaplan, managing director, is acting as convention host.

That ancient bronze wheel coin covered by the green patina of 5,000 years is in the coin display of the Rev. Robert E. Manning, professor of Greek and head of the classical department at Xavier University. The display, devoted mostly to papal coins, has 140 coins issued by the

various popes beginning with Pope John in 1316 and continuing through 600 years.

DOVES OF HOLY SPIRIT

"All the bird figures on these papal coins are doves representing the Holy Spirit," Father Manning explained. His latest coins are the Pope Pius coin of 1936 and the Sedes Vacat—see vacant—coin from Vatican City of 1939. The father's collection also includes African bronze money in the shape of hand-cuffs; an African copper "neck ring," which some convention delegates call "wife money"—used for the purchase of wives; Chinese money in the form of knives, and ostrich shell money.

Next to the Papal coins, Arthur Rutz, Chicago, has a unique collec-

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tion of Lutheran and Reformation coins and medals. The oldest was struck in 1630 to note the centennial of the Augsburg confession. And Smith & Son, Chicago, in their notable displays of coin rarities, also include some Mormon pieces, as well as an old "Cincinnati Mining" \$10 gold piece, and an old \$15 copper pattern proof shown for the first time in 93 years. There is a remarkable collection, too, of old Jewish coins.

Charles P. Knott has an exhibit of famous copper plate money of Sweden. Some of this money is in the form of copper plates covering a square foot.

TWO MOST VALUABLE

Ira S. Reed, Philadelphia, has a

rare collection of gold coins, including the \$10 gold piece made in 1830 by the essayer Templeton Reid in Georgia and now said by the present owner, Reed, to be valued at \$7,000, because of its great rarity and uniqueness. Reed also shows the \$20 gold piece made during the moratorium in 1933 and valued, he states, at \$1,500. Reed shows papal gold coins dating back to 1300, the magnificent gold medallion of Catherine II of Russia, gorgeous Austrian and other medals.

In the Clark collection of Lincoln medals is one weighing 8½ ounces—in gold—and worth \$300 for its gold alone. The largest gold medal in the exhibition is Reed's Franco-Prussian War medal of 1871, with

over 16 ounces of gold that is alone worth \$600.

At the exhibits you may also see rare Cincinnati money—the five-cent to 50-cent currency issued by the old Burnet House and Pike's Opera House; bonds of the Cincinnati & Sedamsville Railroad Co.; of the Cincinnati & Western Railroad and Marietta & Cincinnati Railroad.

The U. S. Secret Service has an interesting display of genuine and counterfeit money so arranged that you can detect the counterfeit product, and Thomas A. Gallagher, agent in charge, is on hand to tell you all about it and how to prevent crime through education. He said last year only \$50,000 of counterfeit money was put out compared to

\$700,000 in 1934-35. Most of the big counterfeiters are now in prison, he added.